

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
128TH LEGISLATURE
FIRST SPECIAL, SECOND REGULAR AND SECOND SPECIAL SESSIONS



Summaries of bills, adopted amendments and laws enacted or finally passed

**JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES**

October 2018

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STATE OF MAINE

128TH LEGISLATURE

FIRST SPECIAL, SECOND REGULAR AND SECOND SPECIAL SESSIONS



LEGISLATIVE DIGEST OF BILL SUMMARIES AND ENACTED LAWS

This *Legislative Digest of Bill Summaries and Enacted Laws* contain summaries of all LDs and adopted amendments and all laws enacted or finally passed during the First Special, Second Regular and Second Special Sessions of the 128th Maine Legislature.

The *Digest* is arranged alphabetically by committee and within each committee by Legislative Document (LD) number. The committee report(s), prime sponsor and lead co-sponsor(s), if designated, are listed below each LD title. All adopted amendments are summarized and listed by paper number. A subject index is included with each committee. An appendix provides a summary of relevant session statistics.

Final action on each LD is noted to the right of the LD title. The following describes the various final actions.

CARRIED OVER..... carried over to a subsequent session of the Legislature
CON RES XXX..... chapter # of constitutional resolution passed by both houses
CONF CMTE UNABLE TO AGREE..... Committee of Conference unable to agree; legislation died
DIED BETWEEN HOUSES..... House & Senate disagreed; legislation died
DIED IN CONCURRENCE..... defeated in each house, but on different motions; legislation died
DIED ON ADJOURNMENT..... action incomplete when session ended; legislation died
EMERGENCY..... enacted law takes effect sooner than 90 days after session adjournment
FAILED, EMERGENCY ENACTMENT or FINAL PASSAGE..... emergency failed to receive required 2/3 vote
FAILED, ENACTMENT or FINAL PASSAGE..... failed to receive final majority vote
FAILED, MANDATE ENACTMENT..... legislation proposing local mandate failed required 2/3 vote
HELD BY GOVERNOR..... Governor has not signed; final disposition to be determined at subsequent session
LEAVE TO WITHDRAW..... sponsor's request to withdraw legislation granted
NOT PROPERLY BEFORE THE BODY..... ruled out of order by the presiding officer; legislation died
INDEF PP..... indefinitely postponed; legislation died
ONTP, ACCEPTED, MAJORITY, MINORITY or REPORT X... ought-not-to-pass report accepted; legislation died
P&S XXX..... chapter # of enacted private & special law
PUBLIC XXX..... chapter # of enacted public law
RESOLVE XXX..... chapter # of finally passed resolve
VETO SUSTAINED..... Legislature failed to override Governor's veto

The effective dates for non-emergency legislation enacted in the First Special, Second Regular or Second Special Sessions of the 128th Legislature are: Monday, February 5, 2018; Wednesday, August 1, 2018; and Thursday, December 13, 2018, respectively. The effective date for legislation enacted as an emergency measure may be found in the enacted law summary for that legislation.

Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services

committee is authorized to submit legislation regarding the pilot project, including legislation to continue the pilot project, to the First Regular Session of the 129th Legislature.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-737)

This amendment is the majority report of the committee. It strikes and replaces the resolve. Like the resolve, the amendment establishes within the Department of Health and Human Services a pilot project to provide rapid access to low-barrier treatment for substance use disorders and stable housing to support recovery and create stability for 50 opioid users who are among the most vulnerable and unstable in the State. The amendment details the pilot project objectives, eligibility criteria for pilot project participants and services that must be provided to those participants, including medication-assisted treatment, intensive case management services and financial and case management assistance to ensure immediate and continued access to stable housing. The amendment requires an independent evaluation of the pilot project and directs the department to submit a report to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over health and human services matters regarding the pilot project by March 15, 2019. The joint standing committee is authorized to submit legislation regarding the pilot project, including legislation to continue or to expand the pilot project, to the First Regular Session of the 129th Legislature.

Senate Amendment "A" To Committee Amendment "A" (S-523)

This amendment reduces the number of opioid users to be served by the homeless opioid users service engagement pilot project from 50 to 25 and replaces the appropriations and allocations section. It also changes the date by which the Department of Health and Human Services must issue a request for proposals and implement the pilot project through social service contracts.

LD 1712 An Act Regarding Health Care Ombudsman Services

ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
VACHON K LANGLEY B	ONTP	

This bill allows Medicaid contracted ombudsman support services to be expanded to support an eligible member applying for federal Affordable Care Act special enrollment health insurance coverage to be paid for by the eligible member.

LD 1713 An Act To Improve Housing Support in the Bridging Rental Assistance Program

**Died On
Adjournment**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
GATTINE D BELLOWS S	OTP-AM ONTP	H-663

This bill was carried over on the Special Appropriations Table from the Second Regular Session to the next special session by joint order S.P. 748.

This bill requires a participant in the Bridging Rental Assistance Program to contribute the same amount toward rent that is required of a participant in the housing voucher program administered by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development under the United States Housing Act of 1937, Public Law 75-412, 50 Stat. 888, Section 8.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-663)

This amendment is the majority report of the committee. It requires that participants in the Bridging Rental

Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services

Assistance Program accept a Section 8 voucher when it becomes available. The amendment provides a start date of July 1, 2018, for the requirement in the bill that the Department of Health and Human Services require a program participant to contribute the same amount toward rent that is required of a participant in a housing voucher program administered by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development under the United States Housing Act of 1937, Public Law 75-412, 50 Stat. 888, Section 8. It directs the Department of Health and Human Services to ensure that no program participants lose assistance during the transition to the new contribution amount. It also adds an appropriations and allocations section.

**LD 1714 An Act To Clarify Liability Pertaining to the Collection of Debts of
MaineCare Providers by the Department of Health and Human Services**

**PUBLIC 442
EMERGENCY**

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
GATTINE D	OTP-AM	H-674

This bill was carried over on the Special Appropriations Table from the Second Regular Session to the next special session by joint order S.P. 748.

This bill clarifies requirements for the definition of an ownership or control relationship for purposes of determining when the Department of Health and Human Services may offset debts owed to the department by a provider against current MaineCare reimbursement due to that provider or an entity related to that provider. It clarifies that the department may not offset current reimbursement owed to an entity related by ownership or control to the provider unless the person whose relationship is the subject of the offset has the voting power to govern the operation of the provider owing the debt. The bill prohibits the department from imposing liability for a debt owed by a provider on any person except a provider notified in accordance with statute of the debt or a person subject to collection by offset. The bill retains the provision in current law allowing the department to recover a debt by seeking a civil penalty for a false claim.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-674)

This amendment incorporates a fiscal note.

Enacted Law Summary

Public Law 2017, chapter 442 clarifies requirements for the definition of an ownership or control relationship for purposes of determining when the Department of Health and Human Services may offset debts owed to the department by a provider against current MaineCare reimbursement due to that provider or an entity related to that provider. It clarifies that the department may not offset current reimbursement owed to an entity related by ownership or control to the provider unless the person whose relationship is the subject of the offset has the voting power to govern the operation of the provider owing the debt. It prohibits the department from imposing liability for a debt owed by a provider on any person except a provider notified in accordance with statute of the debt or a person subject to collection by offset. It retains the provision in current law allowing the department to recover a debt by seeking a civil penalty for a false claim.

Public Law 2017, chapter 442 was enacted as an emergency measure effective July 4, 2018.

**LD 1715 An Act To Ensure Rural Patient Populations Receive Safe and Effective
Health Care**

ONTP

<u>Sponsor(s)</u>	<u>Committee Report</u>	<u>Amendments Adopted</u>
STANLEY S CARSON B	ONTP	